

A Pragmatic Analysis of Presupposition in Selected Political Speeches

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Abstract The study tries to check and analyze the presupposition in Trump's speech from the point of pragmatic perspective. The current study aims at investigating the types of presuppositions in Trump's political speech, these types are: potential presupposition, existential presupposition, factive presupposition, non-factive presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition, counterfactual presupposition and false presupposition depending on Yule's model of presupposition (1996).

Keywords: presupposition, Yule's model (1996), Trump's speech

Introduction

1. Pragmatic presupposition

Austin (1962), Al-Sulaimaan, (2010) and Stalnaker (1970) developed the speculation of practical (speaker, conversational) presuppositions (see furthermore Stalnaker (1998) and Simons (2003) for ongoing variant). Calm disapproved of presuppositions consolidate the preconditions for phonetic collaboration (for example, the common public data that we are conveying in a comparable vernacular), the principles of turn-taking in talk, and much particularized information about conversational plans and targets. The most clear events of calm disapproved of presuppositions are those that can just with huge exertion be followed to unequivocal words or articulations, yet rather seem to rise up out of more wide properties of the special circumstance and the presumptions for the speakers.

2. Definitions and Nature of presupposition

Bach and Harnish (1979) states that a presupposition is something that you accept to be genuine particularly something which you should accept that is valid to proceed with what you are saying or thinking. Whereas Yule (1996 : 25) adds that presupposition can be best introduced by the following examples. Consider the following sentence:

Jane knows that Bob hates puppies.

This sentence could not be felicitously uttered in a context in which it was a matter of dispute whether Bob hates puppies.

This might, however, seem less than surprising; after all, the sentence entails that Bob hates puppies and, in general, one cannot simply assert claims which trivially entail proposition which are at issue in a conversation.

The interesting thing is that this relationship between the sentence and the proposition survives various transformations of our original sentence including:

Negation: Jane doesn't know that Bob hates puppies.

Question :Does Jane know that Bob hates puppies?

Conditional: If Jane knows that Bob hates puppies, then she will avoid him at all costs.

None of these entail that Bob hates puppies but, still none could be felicitously uttered in a context in which it was a matter of dispute whether Bob hates puppies.

This might remind you of some of the example of pragmatic implicature we have discussed; e.g.; the example of the letter of recommendation writer, or you are the cream in my coffee, but not that those examples are highly context -dependent, and that they don't survive the sorts of transformation exemplified above.

Here are a few more example:

Jane stopped drinking wine for breakfast. (presupposes: Jane used to drink wine for breakfast).

It was Bob that organized the cheating ring. (presupposes: someone organized the cheating ring).

(Bob children are obnoxious. (presupposes: Bob has children).

Smith returned to the scene of the crime. (presupposes: smith had been at the crime scene before).(Soul , 2009 : 367-386)

3.Types of Presupposition:

Yule (1996 :27) states that presupposition has been clarified as something the participants accepts being a case earlier of giving expressions. (Yule, 1996:25) likewise expressed that presupposition was related with utilization of a massive number of words, expression and design Because such countless kinds of presupposition can be found by etymological in their documented, in this investigation, the essayist attempts to break down the sorts of presupposition proposed by Yule. These etymology structures are considered as pointers of essential presupposition that could just become real presupposition in setting with speaker.They are existential presupposition, active presupposition, lexical presupposition, structural presupposition non-factive presupposition, counterfactual presupposition.

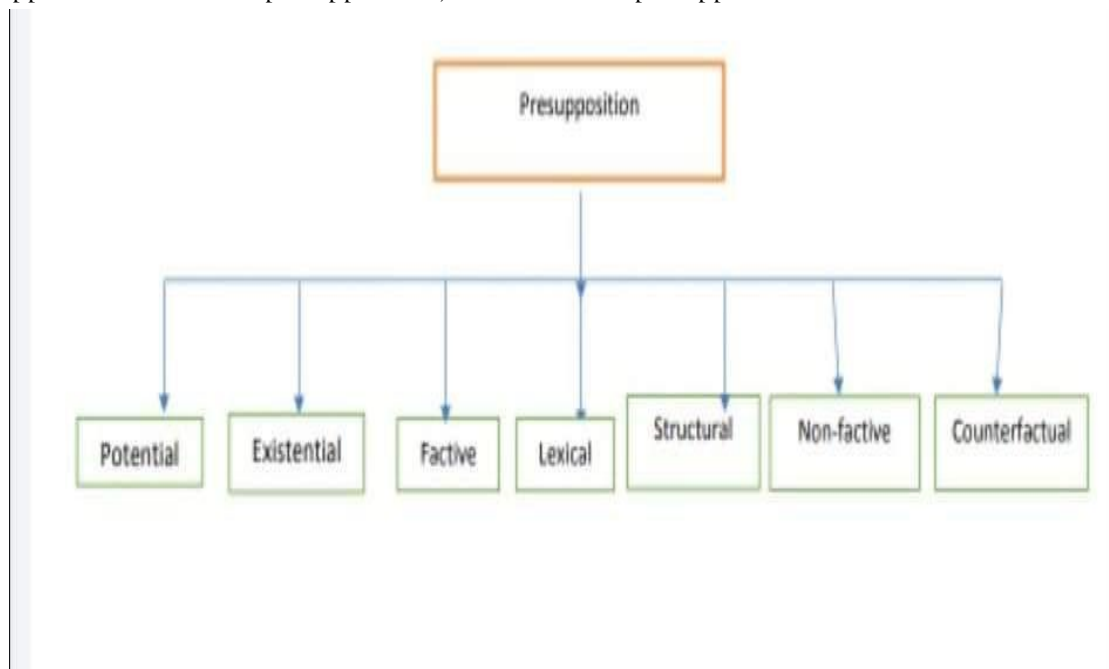


Figure (1) Types of Presupposition

a) Potential Presupposition:

Yule portrayed a potential presupposition is a presumption normally connected with utilization of a semantic structure (words, phrase, structure) (1996:27) he partitioned expected presupposition into six classes .

b) Existential Presupposition:

It is the expectation thought to be focused on the presence of the substances names by the speaker and thought to be available in the thing expression. For instance :

(Your car (you have a car)

(My mother dress is dirty) (my mother exists and that she has a dress).

c) Factive Presupposition:

The assumption, here, can be true and can identify by some verbs such as know realize regret for example:

Michael didn't realize that cano was wrong

(cano was wrong)

(Cano regrets telling us) (Cano told us)

(Hawala is glad that is over) (It is over)

d) Non-factive Presupposition:

To Leech (1983) non-factive Presupposition can be the assumption which is supposed not be true and which is identified by presence of some verb such as "dream,' 'image,' 'pretend.' Those can be used with presupposition which cannot be true. For instance:

(I dream that I was rich) (I was not rich)

(We imagine that we were in Hawaii) (you are not in Hawaii)

(He pretends to be ill) (he is not ill)

e) Lexical Presupposition:

It is a presupposition in which the use of a word is asserted with meaning that is conversationally interpreted with presupposition that another (nonasserted) meaning can be understood other example involving lexical presupposition are stop, start, again. For instance :

(She stopped smoking) (he used to smoke)

(They start complaining) (they weren't complaining before)

(You are late again) (you are late before)

Structural Presupposition:f)

Here, a supposition related with the utilization of specific words and expression and thought to be valid, for instance, in English WH question development could be ordinarily deciphered via presupposition in which the data after the WH-structure is now know to be case. For instance:

(When did he leave?) (he left)

(Where did you buy the bike?) (you bought the bike)

g) Counterfactual Presupposition:

The supposition what is presupposition isn't just false, yet it is inverse of what is surmised isn't just obvious, yet it is inverse of what is valid, or in spite of certainty. For example, some restrictive design, for the most part called counterfactual conditionals assume that the data in if provision isn't at the hour of expression. For instance:

(IF you are my friend, you would have helped me) (you are not my friend)

h) False Presupposition:

Scholars like Meyer, (2009), Mey (2001) and Richardson (2007) observe that not all implications are promptly there in a content to be basically perused from the show content. He accentuates that there are covered up or surmised implications in messages and these

implications can be utilized to deceive and misrepresentation since they assume bogus data or data that may not be valid (in the same place.). In this regard, an assumed importance is an underestimated, certain case which is implanted inside the unequivocal significance of a text or expression.(Richardson (2007: 63).

Via work that has been done before, Reah (2002: 106) has stated that presuppositions could be marked by what is called presupposition triggers (i.e., constructions or items that signal the existence of a presupposition in an utterance). Reah (ibid.) has listed three presupposition triggers which may be common in fabricated news reports :

1. Certain words, like difference in state action words, conjuring assumed importance in their utilization; the action word "start", for instance, surmises a development or an activity (on the same page.). The inquiry "Do you think military assault is the most ideal method of finishing Iraqi antagonism?"- broadcasted on the BBC's leader News night customized in the development to the 2003 attack of Iraq- assumes surmises that Iraq is being bellicose (in the same place.). Another model is the point at which a journalist says/composes (They assaulted regular folks once more) to assume that they have assaulted them previously. The utilization of "once more" here powers listeners/perusers to look for the importance of the surmised earlier occasion .

2. The distinct article "the" and the possessive pronouns "his/her" trigger presuppositions as in "The danger of Iraq" which assumes that a danger exists (Reah, 2002: 106). Political and war news reports are not vacant of such presuppositions. For example, in alluding to "The disclosure that England did battle based on one page of legitimate exhortation", the journalist assumes that this is a disclosure not a reality.

3. Wh-questions represent a technique that is frequently used in journalism to presuppose as in "Why do Islamist terrorist groups like al-Qaeda and Hamas want to crush the West and destroy Israel? Michael Scott Doran unravels the historical roots of their extremism" (ibid.). In the preceding question, the reporter presupposes the existence of an intention to crush the West; he also presupposes that Hamas is categorized as an Islamist terrorist group (which is not, in fact, the case). This means that the reporter, by using the presupposition trigger Wh-question, falsely presupposes that Hamas is an Islamist terrorist group intending to destroy the west .

Richardson (2007: 64) adds another type of presupposition which he calls "nominal presupposition". This type is triggered by nouns and adjectives used to qualify or modify noun phrases as in the following headline printed in the Daily Express (25 February 2005) "Britain's asylum takes new hammering", where the adjective "new" presupposes that Britain's asylum system has experienced old or past "hammering" .(ibid).

In (1987: 112), Brown and Levinson have focused on presupposition manipulations where speakers/ writers presuppose something when they falsely presume that it is mutually taken for granted, while it is, in fact, not really mutually assumed to be the case. A case of false presupposition is one in which speakers/ writers presuppose that they have the same values with their targets with respect to a relevant predicate (ibid.). For instance, speakers/ writers, in their attempt to fabricate, may use certain terms with the presupposition that their referents are known to the addressees so that they (speakers/ writers) can mislead and pervert the addressees (ibid.). Thus, one clue to speakers'/ writers' intent is to presuppose. Consequently, the influence of this pragmatic sub-strategy makes it profusely employed in news reports to realize the fabricative strategy of innuendo.

4. Analysis of Presupposition in Trump's Speech

Extract No. 1

"My fellow Americans. Tonight, I want to speak with you about our nation's unprecedented response to the coronavirus outbreak that started in Chinaetc."

Presupposition Type: Existential

The American president Trump uses the expression "My fellow American" to trigger the presupposition that he is directing his speech to the American people only. He also aims to exclude any others people such as foreign countries.

Then he uses the expression "our nation's unprecedented response" to force the presupposition that there is a response to the very current issue that his country faces which is the outbreak of Corona virus. Trump uses the expression "the coronavirus outbreak that started in China and is now spreading throughout the world." to force the presupposition that the original and made of this virus or at least the starting point is China. This presupposes and triggers the conflict or struggle between the two countries.

Then the American president said " We have been in frequent contact with our allies, and we are marshaling". This aims to force the idea that America is working with other allied and friend countries in addition to the actions of the federal government to support the economy of the country. This presupposes the fact that the American will get some financial help from the government in this time which assures and comfort the ordinary American people and their families. He wants to say that the government is with them and they are not alone in this situation.

Extract No. 2

"This is the way it always was, and always will be. It only matters how you respond, and we are responding with great speed and professionalism.etc."

Presupposition types: Existential and Structural Presupposition

There is a certain way for the American people or the American policy to respond. We are always exposed to crises and respond to them in a way that suits us as a great nation. He used this strong presupposition to raise the morale and spirits of the American people.

Trump her use Structural presupposition We respond and respond with great speed and great effectiveness, which indicates the strength of America and the strength and steadfastness of the American people

There is a team to deal with crises, and this is not a random team or a team with little experience, but the best team in the world. Use this word to indicate the effectiveness and efficiency of this team and its elements, as well as on the United States and the American government controlling the situation in order to reassure the American people.

We have taken strict and swift measures from these measures. We have prevented travel from China, we have worked on restrictions on travel from China, and we have taken effective measures and procedures

Extract No. 3

"The..... The virus will not have a chance against us. No nation is more prepared or more resilient than the United Statesetc."

Presupposition types: Existential and factive presupposition

Trump presupposed that this virus has spread in the world but it cannot attack us because we have taken the necessary measures and also because no country is more prepared for us to confront this virus. Trump used this assumption in order to reassure the American people because as we see that China is more developed, yet this epidemic has arisen.

Trump here used the factive assumption because they really had the best economy, the best talented doctors and researchers.

Trump assumed that the best possible action they could take is to be one hand and united because they are all together in the fight against this virus. He encourages the American people, as they must back him up in his policies as they are set in order to reassure people of the effectiveness of his actions and decisions. Trump also stated that it is time to raise money. This means that Trump is still interested in the issue of politics, but he tried to calm the American people.

Extract No. 4

"We are moving very quickly....., the risk is very low. Young and healthy people can expect to recover fully and quickly. The elderly population must be very CAREFUL."

Presupposition Types: Existential presupposition

Trump assumed that there is a risk but very few especially if we take the necessary measures. Trump advised his followers and focused more on elderly people because they are more vulnerable to this virus because of their weak immunity

Extract No. 5

".....this week, I met with the leaders of health insurance, who have agreed to waive all copayments for coronavirus treatments..... We are cutting massive amounts of red tape etc.."

Presupposition types: Existential presupposition

The treatment for this virus was for money, but Trump met with his health insurance industry to waive treatment payments. Trump tried to say this in order to reassure the American people because the American health insurance plans would only waive the costs of the tests and not the treatment.

When it comes to treatment, they said that service providers take measures to reduce network requirements, referral, pre-authorization, or waive a patient's cost sharing in other words that they do not eliminate costs.

5. Conclusions

Debut discourse can be a kind of discourse offers picked public office holders the opportunity to make ensures and to give confirmation of good organization through feasible language use. Through the analyzed talk, Trump makes a huge load of presuppositions to show his enormous data on the Americans and current socio-political genuine elements of the US of America. The presuppositions fill in as purpose behind the various ensures he makes. They furthermore address the transcendence of in a general sense direct sentences through which he draws on the regular data on his American crowd individuals without depleting nuances. Trump also sets out on a lot of face work announcing unmistakably the epitome of local area and the evil of burden. The speech, regardless, clearly join ample avoidable face risks occasioned essentially by expansive examination and claim. The backings used to assuage the daze related with his investigation anyway make them unavoidably bearable yet simultaneously disastrously basic. This avows his critics 'dispute that he is obscene.

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